Traditionally, wastewater has been treated and discharged to streams. However, a rapidly growing suburban population in southeastern Pennsylvania is generating an increasing quantity of wastewater. Discharge to streams often degrades stream-water quality. A government-wide move is underway to limit the quantity of nutrients discharged to streams. In addition, many streams are being designated as high or exceptional value streams. An alternative to stream discharge is land application of treated effluent. An increasing number of communities in Pennsylvania are implementing land-treatment systems to dispose of treated sewage effluent. Disposal of treated effluent by spraying onto the land surface recharges the ground-water system and provides an extra purifying step in the wastewater treatment process and does not directly degrade stream-water quality.

The USGS, in cooperation with the Chester County Water Resources Authority and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP), conducted a study on the effects of treated sewage effluent sprayed on the land surface in New Garden Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. New Garden Township did not contribute funding to the study, but graciously allowed the use of their spray-irrigation site as a study site. The New Garden Township site lies west of Kennett Square Borough just north of Baltimore Pike (fig. 10). The site covers approximately 58 acres. The PaDEP issued a permit for a maximum application rate of 300,000 gallons of effluent per day. Application began in May of 1999. The USGS collected data at the site through December 2001.

The objectives of this study were to determine the percentage of applied effluent that recharges the ground-water system and the percentage that was lost to evapotranspiration using a monthly water-budget approach, to characterize the effect of land treatment on ground-water and surface-water quality, and to determine the fate and transport of nitrogen as it moved from effluent into soil, soil water, ground water, crops and the atmosphere by determining and quantifying a nitrogen budget.

The site was intensively instrumented in order to reach project objectives. The USGS drilled 6 shallow (CH5173, CH5175, CH5177, CH5179, CH5180, and CH5181) and 4 bedrock wells (CH5172, CH5174, CH5176, and CH5178) at the New Garden Township site to monitor ground-water quality and ground-water-level fluctuations within the spray application area. A deep (CH5182) and shallow (CH5183) well pair acted as control wells outside the application area. Data for water year 2002 for these wells are presented in this report on pages 472-496. A system of suction lysimeters was installed at four locations in the application area with additional lysimeters installed as control lysimeters outside the application area (fig. 10). Lysimeters were installed at depths ranging from 3 to 15 feet. Lysimeter data are presented in this report, pages 428-435.

A surface-water flow-measuring station (01479678) was installed on the stream located downgradient in respect to ground-water-flow directions to measure the quantity of streamflow leaving the approximately 45 acre site (0.07 mi²). A stilling well was installed in a pond (station 01479677) downgradient of the spray fields to measure pond level fluctuations. A flume (station 01479676) was installed at the lowest elevation point of the field site above the pond. A swale directed overland flow from part of the study site (0.03 mi²) through the flume and stage was recorded electronically. Data for these surface-water sites can be found on pages 318-328.

Ground-water and surface-water sampling on a monthly basis were used to characterize changes in ground-water and surface-water quality. Storm samples were also collected using an automatic sampler at the flume station 01479676. Treated sewage effluent and precipitation were sampled on a monthly basis to quantify nutrient inputs to the site.

Other data collected electronically at the site included precipitation amounts, numerous other meteorological parameters such as wind speed and wind direction, soil moisture, and applied effluent. Soil and plant samples were collected in the application field and in control areas in order to determine the mass of nitrogen in the soil-plant system.

System design engineers and regulators are in need of data on monthly and seasonal variations in recharge and evapotranspiration for use in designing and managing spray irrigation systems. Quantifying monthly evapotranspiration rates will provide additional field data to assist regulators in permitting new spray irrigation systems. Results from the monthly water budgets could potentially change the present regulations regarding application rates. For water managers, the monthly water budgets could provide a ground-water recharge percentage for issuances of water-use credits. Assessments of nutrient loading to ground water and surface water would quantify the percentage of nutrients applied to the land surface that enters and moves through the ground-water system to the surface-water system.

For additional information, contact Curtis Schreffler at the U.S. Geological Survey, 215 Limekiln Road, New Cumberland, PA; 717-730-6900 (electronic mail: clschref@usgs.gov).

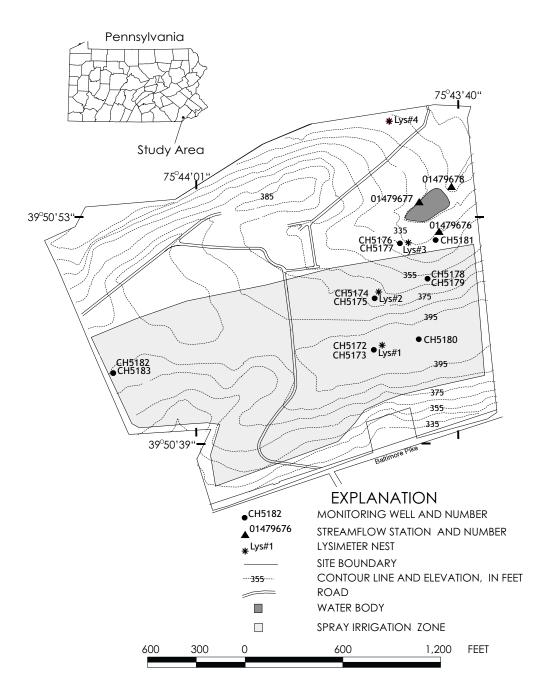


Figure 10.--Locations of ground-water wells, surface-water sites, and soil suction-lysimeter nests for the spray irrigation project in New Garden Township, Chester County.

TABLE 4.--Description of soil suction lysimeters located at the Spray Irrigation Project site.

REMARKS.--Lysimeter locations Lys#1 and Lys#2 are located in the spray field. Lysimeter locations Lys#3 and Lys#4 are located outside of the spray zones. See figure 10 for location of lysimeters at field site.

					DEPTH
LYSIMETER			LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	OF WELL
NEST	LOC	AL ID	(DEGREES)	(DEGREES)	(FEET)
Lys#1	CH	5211	395045	0754347	3.0
	CH	5212	395045	0754347	7.0
	CH	5213	395045	0754347	11.0
Lys#2	CH	5215	395048	0754347	3.0
	CH	5216	395048	0754347	7.0
	CH	5217	395048	0754347	11.0
	CH	5218	395048	0754347	15.0
Lys#3	CH	5219	395052	0754345	3.0
	CH	5564	395052	0754345	6.0
	CH	5565	395052	0754345	9.5
	CH	5566	395052	0754345	13.0
Lys#4	CH	5568	395100	0754346	7.0
	CH	5570	395100	0754346	15.0

395045075434703 -- CH 5211

WATER-QUALITY DATA, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Date	Time	AGENCY ANA- LYZING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER (00028	COL- LECTIN SAMPLE (CODE	RED IG UCTI POTE TIA R) (MV	N WATE - WHOL ON FIEL N- (STAN L ARC ') UNIT	E CIFI D CON- D DUCT ANCE S) (µS/0	C TEMPEI - ATURI C WATER	E SOLVED R (MG/L C) AS CL)	SOLVED (MG/L
OCT 2001 11 NOV	1015	9813	1028		6.2	437		53.6	<.020
29	1030	9813	1028					58.7	<.020
DEC 12	0800	9813	1028	227			7.3	63.4	<.020
	Date		DIS- SOLVED (MG/L	NITRO- GEN, NITRATE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00618)	GEN, NITRITE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)	(MG/L AS C)	(µG/L AS B)	SOLVED (µG/L	
	OCT 20 11 NOV		.34	. 23	<.040	1.4			
	29 DEC 12		.55	.17	<.040		200	30	

395045075434704 -- CH 5212

				OXID-	PH				NITRO-
		AGENCY	AGENCY	ATION	WATER	SPE-		CHLO-	GEN,
		ANA-	COL-	RED-	WHOLE	CIFIC		RIDE,	AMMONIA
		LYZING	LECTING	UCTION	FIELD	CON-	TEMPER-	DIS-	DIS-
		SAMPLE	SAMPLE	POTEN-	(STAND-	DUCT-	ATURE	SOLVED	SOLVED
Date	Time	(CODE	(CODE	TIAL	ARD	ANCE	WATER	(MG/L	(MG/L
		NUMBER)	NUMBER)	(MV)	UNITS)	(µs/cm)	(DEG C)	AS CL)	AS N)
		(00028)	(00027)	(00090)	(00400)	(00095)	(00010)	(00940)	(00608)
OCT 2001									
11	1020	9813	1028					71.8	<.020
NOV									
29	1040	9813	1028	275	6.0	374	13.6	55.1	<.020
DEC									
12	0820	9813	1028	247	5.8		8.0	52.1	<.020

		NITRO-	NTTRO-
	NITRO-	GEN,	GEN,
	GEN	NITRATE	NITRITE
	DIS-	DIS-	DIS-
	SOLVED	SOLVED	SOLVED
Date	(MG/L	(MG/L	(MG/L
	AS N)	AS N)	AS N)
	(00602)	(00618)	(00613)
OCT 2001			
11	. 78	.57	< .040
NOV	. / 0	.57	<.040
29	.92	.67	< .040
DEC.	. 32	.07	<.U40
12	1.1	.71	< .040
12	T.T	. / 1	<.040

395045075434705 -- CH 5213

WATER-QUALITY DATA, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Date	Time	NUMBER)	AGENCY COL- LECTING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER) (00027)	TIAL (MV)	PH WATER WHOLE FIELD (STAND- ARD UNITS) (00400)	SPE- CIFIC CON- DUCT- ANCE (µS/CM) (00095)	WATER		SOLVED (MG/L
OCT 2001 11 NOV	1030	9813	1028					91.9	<.020
29 DEC	1050	1028	1028	270	5.8	420	14.3		
12	0830	1028	1028	264	5.7	420	9.7		
		Date	NITROGEN DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00602)	NITRATE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)	GEN, NITRITE DIS- SOLVEI (MG/L AS N)	E			
		OCT 2001 11	1.6	1.30	<.040				
	Ι	29 DEC 12							

395048075434703 -- СН 5215

				OXID-	PH				NITRO-
		AGENCY	AGENCY	ATION	WATER	SPE-		CHLO-	GEN,
		ANA-	COL-	RED-	WHOLE	CIFIC		RIDE,	AMMONIA
		LYZING	LECTING	UCTION	FIELD	CON-	TEMPER-	DIS-	DIS-
		SAMPLE	SAMPLE	POTEN-	(STAND-	DUCT-	ATURE	SOLVED	SOLVED
Date	Time	(CODE	(CODE	TIAL	ARD	ANCE	WATER	(MG/L	(MG/L
		NUMBER)	NUMBER)	(MV)	UNITS)	(µS/CM)	(DEG C)	AS CL)	AS N)
		(00028)	(00027)	(00090)	(00400)	(00095)	(00010)	(00940)	(00608)
OCT 2001									
11	1045	9813	1028		6.2	633		104	<.020
NOV									
29	1115	9813	1028	258	6.3	577	12.5	101	<.020
DEC									
12	0845	9813	1028	239	6.4	563	8.5	103	<.020

		NITRO-	NITRO-					
	NITRO-	GEN,	GEN,	CARBON,			MANGA-	
	GEN	NITRATE	NITRITE	ORGANIC	BORON,	IRON,	NESE,	ZINC,
	DIS-							
	SOLVED							
Date	(MG/L	(MG/L	(MG/L	(MG/L	(µG/L	(µG/L	(µG/L	(µG/L
	AS N)	AS N)	AS N)	AS C)	AS B)	AS FE)	AS MN)	AS ZN)
	(00602)	(00618)	(00613)	(00681)	(01020)	(01046)	(01056)	(01090)
OCT 2001								
11	1.3	.98	< .040	1.6	< 200	30	<10	10
NOV								
29	2.0	1.57	< .040		<200			<10
DEC								
12	1.5	1.12	<.040		200			<10

395048075434704 -- CH 5216

WATER-QUALITY DATA, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Date	Time	AGENCY ANA- LYZING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER (00028	COL- LECTI SAMPL (COD	RED NG UCTI E POTE E TIA R) (MV	ON WATE O- WHOL CON FIEL CN- (STAN L ARD	E CIFI D CON- D DUCT ANCE	CC TEMPE T- ATUF WATE CM) (DEG	RE SOLVED ER (MG/L C) AS CL)	(MG/L
OCT 2001 11 NOV	1050	9813	1028		6.5	741	L	99.0	<.020
27 29 DEC	0900 1125	1028 9813	1028 1028				 		<.020
12	0855	9813	1028	223	6.9		- 8.5	101	<.020
	Date		AS N)	SOLVED (MG/L AS N)	DIS- SOLVED (MG/L	SOLVED (µG/L AS B)	DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS ZN)	WATER FLTRD 0.45 μ	
	OCT 20		1.5	1.23	<.040	<200	<10		
	27 29 DEC		2.5	2.16	<.040			14.50	
	12.		3.2	2.60	<.040	200	10		

395048075434705 -- CH 5217

Date	Time	LYZING SAMPLE		TIAL (MV)	PH WATER WHOLE FIELD (STAND- ARD UNITS) (00400)	ANCE	TEMPER- ATURE WATER (DEG C) (00010)	CHLO- RIDE, DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS CL)	(MG/L
OCT 2001 11	1100	9813	1028		6.3	514		88.5	<.020
NOV 29	1135	9813	1028	275	6.3		14.6	80.9	<.020
DEC 12	0905	9813	1028	205	6.4		9.9	91.6	<.020
		Date	NITROGEN DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)	NITRATE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)	GEN, NITRITH DIS- SOLVEI (MG/L AS N)	E			
	1	OCT 2001 11 NOV 29 DEC	2.2	1.93	<.040 <.040				
		12	1.9	1.49	< .040				

395048075434706 -- CH 5218

WATER-QUALITY DATA, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Date	Time	AGENCY ANA- LYZING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER (00028	COL- LECTII SAMPLI (CODI	RED NG UCTI E POTE E TIA R) (MV	N WATE - WHOL ON FIEL N- (STAN L ARD) UNIT	E CIFI D CON- D- DUCT ANCE S) (µS/0	TEMPER- T- ATURE WATER CM) (DEG C)	SOLVED (MG/L AS CL)	SOLVED (MG/L
OCT 2001 11 NOV	1150	9813	1028					63.1	<.020
29 DEC	1150	9813	1028	280	6.0		14.3	59.4	<.020
12	0915	9813	1028	238	6.0	327	7 10.8	58.4	<.020
	Date		GEN DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)		GEN, NITRITE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)		DIS- SOLVED		
	OCT 20		2.1	1.93	<.040	<200	<10		
	29. DEC		2.3	1.93	<.040				
	12.		2.5	1.91	<.040				

395052075434503 -- СН 5219

Date	Time	AGENCY ANA- LYZING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER) (00028)		POTEN- TIAL (MV)	WHOLE N FIELD - (STAND- ARD UNITS)	ANCE (µS/CM)	WATER (DEG C)	SOLVED (MG/L AS CL)	SOLVED (MG/L AS N)
OCT 2001	1230	9813	1028		6.1	304		. 5	<.020
11 NOV	1230	9813	1028		6.1	304		.5	<.020
29 DEC	1230	9813	1028	245	6.4	288	12.7	<.5	<.020
12	0950	9813	1028	242	6.1	271	10.9	<.5	<.020
Date		DIS- SOLVED	DIS- SOLVED	NITRO- GEN, NITRITE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00613)	CARBON, ORGANIC DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS C) (00681)	BORON, DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS B) (01020)	IRON, DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS FE) (01046)	AS MN)	ZINC, DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS ZN (01090)
OCT 200 11		.19	<.04	<.040	1.1	<200	<20	10	<10
NOV							-20	10	
29 DEC		.20	<.04	<.040		<200			20
12		.16	< .04	< .040	1.0	200	<20	<10	<10

395052075434504 -- CH 5564

WATER-QUALITY DATA, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Date	Time	AGENCY ANA- LYZING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER) (00028)		POTEN- TIAL (MV)	PH WATER WHOLE FIELD (STAND- ARD UNITS) (00400)		TEMPER- ATURE WATER (DEG C) (00010)	SOLVED (MG/L	(MG/L AS N)
OCT 2001 11 NOV	1245	9813	1028		5.8	233		10.2	<.020
27 29 DEC	0840 1245	1028 9813	1028 1028	263	6.0	231	13.4	 11.7	<.020
12	1000	9813	1028	264	5.7	228	11.3	12.2	<.020
Date	NITRO- GEN DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00602)	NITRO- GEN, NITRATE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00618)		CARBON, ORGANIC DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS C) (00681)	BORON, DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS B) (01020)	IRON, DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS FE) (01046)	MANGA- NESE, DIS- SOLVED (μG/L AS MN) (01056)	ZINC, DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS ZN) (01090)	N15/N14 N03 FRAC WATER FLTRD 0.45 μ PER MIL (82690)
OCT 2001 11 NOV	5.9	4.17	<.040	<1.0	<200	<20	<10	<10	
27 29	3.4	3.05	<.040	 <1.0	 <200	 <20	 <10	 <10	8.40
DEC 12	3.7	2.96	<.040	<1.0	200	<20	<10	<10	

395052075434505 -- CH 5565

				OXID-	PH				NITRO-
		AGENCY	AGENCY	ATION	WATER	SPE-		CHLO-	GEN,
		ANA-	COL-	RED-	WHOLE	CIFIC		RIDE,	AMMONIA
		LYZING	LECTING	UCTION	FIELD	CON-	TEMPER-	DIS-	DIS-
		SAMPLE	SAMPLE	POTEN-	(STAND-	DUCT-	ATURE	SOLVED	SOLVED
Date	Time	(CODE	(CODE	TIAL	ARD	ANCE	WATER	(MG/L	(MG/L
		NUMBER)	NUMBER)	(MV)	UNITS)	(µs/cm)	(DEG C)	AS CL)	AS N)
		(00028)	(00027)	(00090)	(00400)	(00095)	(00010)	(00940)	(00608)
ogm 0001									
OCT 2001	1200	0012	1000					04.0	. 000
11	1300	9813	1028					24.2	<.020
NOV 29	1255	9813	1028	247	6.4		14.2	27.9	<.020
	1255	9813	1028	24/	0.4		14.2	27.9	<.020
DEC 12	1010	9813	1028	264	6.1	340	12.1	31.5	<.020
14	1010	2013	1028	204	0.1	340	12.1	31.5	<.020

	NITRO- GEN DIS- SOLVED	NITRO- GEN, NITRATE DIS- SOLVED	NITRO- GEN, NITRITE DIS- SOLVED	BORON, DIS- SOLVED	ZINC, DIS- SOLVED
Date	(MG/L AS N) (00602)	(MG/L	(MG/L	(μG/L AS B) (01020)	(µG/L AS ZN) (01090)
OCT 2001 11	3.6	3.28	<.040	<200	<10
29	4.0	3.24	<.040		
DEC 12	4.1	3.28	< .040	200	<10

395052075434506 -- CH 5566

WATER-QUALITY DATA, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Date	Time	AGENCY ANA- LYZING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER) (00028)	AGENCY COL- LECTIN SAMPLH (CODI NUMBER (0002	RED NG UCTION FOR TIAN R) (MV	N WATEH - WHOLH ON FIELH N- (STANI L ARD) UNITS	E CIFI CON- D- DUCT ANCE S) (µS/C	TEMPER- - ATURE WATER CM) (DEG C)	SOLVED (MG/L AS CL)	(MG/L
OCT 2001 11	1310	9813	1028		6.1	318		25.6	<.020
NOV	1310	2013	1020			310		23.0	1.020
29 DEC	1300	9813	1028	266	5.7	323	14.7	28.0	<.020
12	1020	9813	1028	274	5.9	314	12.6	30.4	<.020
	Date	S	NITRO- GEN DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00602)	NITRO- GEN, NITRATE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00618)	DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)		SOLVED		
	OCT 20 11		3.6	3.20	<.040	<200	<10		
	29		3.7	3.25	<.040	<200	<10		
	DEC 12		4.1	3.25	<.040	200	<10		

395100075434604 -- СН 5568

WATER-QUALITY DATA, WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2001 TO SEPTEMBER 2002

Date	Time	NUMBER)		POTEN-			TEMPER- ATURE WATER (DEG C) (00010)	
OCT 2001								
11 NOV	1330	9813	1028					.8
29	1330	1028	1028	240	6.8		14.2	
DEC 12	1040	1028	1028	231	6.8	274	11.5	
	Date	(MG/L AS N)	NITRO- GEN, NITRATE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N) (00618)	GEN, NITRITE DIS- SOLVED (MG/L AS N)	DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS B)	DIS- SOLVED (µG/L AS ZN)		
	OCT 2001 11	3.6	3.20	<.040	<200	<10		
	NOV							
	29 DEC	3.7	3.25	<.040	<200	<10		
	12	4.1	3.25	< .040	200	<10		

395100075434606 -- СН 5570

Date	Time	AGENCY ANA- LYZING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER) (00028)	AGENCY COL- LECTING SAMPLE (CODE NUMBER) (00027)	OXID- ATION RED- UCTION POTEN- TIAL (MV) (00090)	PH WATER WHOLE FIELD (STAND- ARD UNITS) (00400)	SPE- CIFIC CON- DUCT- ANCE (µS/CM) (00095)	TEMPER- ATURE WATER (DEG C) (00010)
OCT 2001 11 DEC	1340	1028	1028		6.5		
12	1100	1028	1028	233	6.4	230	11.5